

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fukumura (Japanese Publication No. 11-041408 (“Fukumura”). Claims 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukumura in view of Funagoshi (Japanese Publication No. 05-037743 (“Funagoshi”)). All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Among the traversals, Applicants respectfully point out that the 1st paragraph limitation in independent claim 10 requires “...an optical reader configured to read an original in a main scanning direction, the optical reader including a reading surface inclined toward a sub scanning direction ...”.

Applicants’ sub-scanning direction is the transport direction (as understood, eg., from the second paragraph of claim 10: “a transporter for transporting the original in a sub scanning direction”).

The office action admits that Japanese Publication No. 11-041408 (“Fukumura”) does not teach “inclined reading surface”, and combines with Japanese Publication No. 05-037743 (“Funagoshi”). But independent claim 10 requires more than an “inclined reading surface”, it requires a reading surface inclined toward a sub scanning direction.

However, the reading surface of Funagoshi is not inclined in same sub-scanning direction as Fukumura. Funagoshi is inclined oppositely: from bottom left to upper right. Therefore, the person skilled in the art would not use the inclined reading surface of Funagoshi in Fukumura. Accordingly, the rejection fails.

B. REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Applicants through the undersigned representative request a telephone interview for the purpose of discussing the pending claims and for explaining further the patentability arguments summarized above. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange an interview.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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